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Caird's slanders on Canada,
answered and refuted!

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CAIRD'S
SLANDERS ON CANADA,
ANSWERED AND REFUTED!

LETTERS FROM CANADA.—No. VIII.

TORONTO, Canada West, Sept. 19, 1859.

MY DEAR WYNDHAM,—

I am not surprised that Mr. Caird's pamphlet should have caused you and your noble neighbours "much anxiety about the welfare" of your old friends and parishioners, "consigned" by you and them to me for settlement in Canada, and of whom several reside on the Free Grants, which, *without seeing them*, Mr. Caird pronounces "to be too poor, even when cleared, to be profitable."

A reference to Mr. Hutton's able and conclusive answer to Mr. Caird's book, at page 15, will show you official details, proving that on the very road named by Caird, 800 acres of land returned to the settlers on them, during *their first year*, products representing a market value of £5000.

This pamphlet of Caird's, printed in New York, and distributed by tens of thousands by parties interested in American railroads and vessels, throughout Great Britain and Canada, contains so much that is ungenerous and untrue about this fine country that I felt it my duty, having been engaged for many years at home and here in sending and inviting emigrants hither, to answer them in June last through the columns of the Hamilton *Spectator*, and cause these answers to be widely distributed in newspaper form in Great Britain.* Mr. Caird has written to Canada to complain of the tone of "acerbity" with which I have written, and to deny the charge that he was a share or bondholder in the Illinois Central, and was thus directly and personally interested in settling those wretched lands,—tree-less, water-less, as they are, and the very nursery of ague and fever. Canada presents a wonderful contrast to this arid wilderness. In almost every section of the country there are broad and rapid rivers, which, if not navigable at all points, afford abundant facilities for saw and flour mills. Nearly every Township has lakes full of fine fish, and wild fowl. The

* I strongly recommend to you, and all parties interested in Canada, "LOVELL'S CANADA DIRECTORY," (1544 pages, Royal 8vo.), which may now be had at a reduced price, at ALGAR & STREET'S, proprietors of the *Canadian News*, 11, Clement's-lane, Lombard-street, London; S. N. OLDHAM, Grafton-street, Dublin; and JOHN MILLER, Stationer, 122, Ingram, corner of Hanover-street, Glasgow. This work, besides being a Local and Personal Directory to Canada, contains a vast amount of valuable information as to Routes, Agricultural and Educational Statistics, &c. &c.

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forest affords a variety of game, peltry, hops, grapes, wild fruits, and flowers in beautiful variety. The maple-tree produces sugar, molassse, and vinegar. There are materials at hand for making furniture, potash, building houses, fences, and for *firewood*, a feature of no small importance when the discovery of coal is said to be a geological impossibility. We have trees of great and increasing value, such as the birds-eye and curly maple, white oak, black walnut. The hickory, rock elm and oak supply axe-handles and plough-tackle, the pine and cedar shingles for roofing, the hemlock and oak materials for tanning leather. I say nothing now of timber for export or lumber—neither can I dwell upon our wonderful mineral riches, for the development of which we must wait for British enterprise and capital. The Upper Province affords copper and iron, the Lower Province gold, silver, platina, &c. &c.; and slate for roofing, &c. &c. Mr. Caird thinks it "possible that he may have under-rated the advantages of Canada, his rapid transit through which, and limited opportunities for examination, did not allow him to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion, and he therefore in a subsequent pamphlet withdrew all reference to Canada, favorable or otherwise."

His condemnation of Canada is frequent and decisive; therefore, it is not enough that he has "withdrawn his reference." His statements, if true, should be maintained; if false, should have been contradicted.

Failing the adoption of this manly course on the part of Mr. Caird,* I feel justified in writing a defence of my adopted country, and I will

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* The *Scottish American Journal*, published in New York, thus alludes to Mr. Caird's denial that he is a shareholder in the Illinois Central:—"Some time ago, in noticing Mr. Caird's little book on prairie farming in Illinois, we took occasion to object to the writer's disparaging remarks with reference to Canada. Mr. Caird hurried through the Province by way of the Grand Trunk and Great Western Railroads, and forming his judgment from what he saw from the carriage windows, he pronounced an opinion against Canada, as compared with Illinois, with all the air of a British agriculturist, and one who is recognized, not without justice, as an authority in such matters. We have no doubt that James Caird is a "prodigious clever little fellow," as one of his neighbours described him to a brother editor in Scotland. None but a fellow of prodigious cleverness, and assurance to match, could form an opinion, and publish it, on the agricultural resources, the advantages of a Province, hundreds of miles in extent, which he traversed in the space of two or three days. But the truth is, that this flying view of Canada was merely introduced as a foil to his more careful and much more favorable account of a district of country in which he happened to be interested. Mr. Caird, in a letter to a Canadian paper, published the other day, has denied the statement that he holds shares in the Illinois Central Railroad. This is a mere quibble that is unworthy of the writer. Mr. Caird does not deny that he was sent out from England on a mission by the shareholders of that Company, and perhaps he will not dispute that he is now employed in London as agent for the sale of that land, the value of which his late publication has done so much to promote. We see a statement to this effect, at least, copied from an Irish paper, which gives it apparently without any unfavorable motive towards Mr. Caird, or any reference to his partiality as a witness on the value of American lands. Another circumstance mentioned in the same journal is that which occasions our present reference to this subject, namely, that Mr. Caird's representations are having the effect of directing the attention of British emigrants from the woods of Canada to the prairies of Illinois."

endeavour to perform this duty faithfully and without "acerbity." I charge Mr. Caird with underrating and slandering Canada, and I further maintain that the district he has so lauded is not a fitting field for European enterprise and colonization, that its geographical position renders it unfit for the production of European cereals, and that its climate is highly injurious and very often fatal to European constitutions. In proof of this opinion, I give below extracts from letters from Professor Hurlburt of Hamilton,* and of Professor Norton,† an American scholar, both gentlemen of great attainments.

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* Professor Hurlburt says: Britain lies between the 50th and 59th degrees of North latitude, and Illinois between the 37th and 42nd. Emigrants from the South of England to the North of Illinois, pass south over eight degrees of latitude, those from the North of Britain to the South of Illinois over 22 degrees, and those from the central counties of Great Britain and Ireland or from the Northern States of Germany to the central parts of Illinois must go fifteen degrees further South than their native land. This is a change in climate equivalent to going from the British Channel to Algeria in Africa, or to Palestine and Persia in Asia. The southern nations of Europe are not identical in climate with corresponding latitudes in the meridian of Illinois in America, because the south and southwest of Europe are washed by the Atlantic and Mediterranean, the cool breezes and moist air of which mitigate the burning rays of the sun; but Illinois is situated in the central parts of the continent with a dry hot atmosphere such as is never experienced in southern Europe. As the winds almost uniformly in summer are from the West and S. W., between 30° and 50° north latitude on this continent, Illinois does not receive any of the moist cool breezes of the great lakes. Hence the arid and parched plains in mid-summer of all the regions from Illinois West; these summer droughts often extending into Ohio.

The summer temperature of Glasgow (lat. 55° 51 min.) is 56; that of Edinburg 57; of London (lat. 51°) 61; of Liverpool (lat. 53°) 57; of Berlin in Prussia (lat. 52°) 64; but in lat. 38° 40 min. in Illinois it is 78°. This gives a very imperfect idea of the heat of the day, which from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m. in June, July and August, is often as high as 90 to 100 *in the shade* in Illinois, (if there be any shade where there are no trees) and 120 under the burning sun.

The effect of such tremendous changes of temperature ought to be well weighed by emigrants from the high cool latitudes of Europe.

Secondly. The emigrant from the British Isles, Norway, Sweden, or from any of the States of Germany, must change almost his entire system of agriculture in going to Illinois. He there gets too far south for the profitable culture of the European grains—the wheat, barley, oats, peas and rye; he gets beyond the region of green pastures and fertile meadows, beyond the land of the dairy. I do not mean that there are no meadows and no pastures in Illinois; but I do mean that south of 39° (and the southern part of Illinois is in latitude 37°) the European grasses (the grasses which makes our green pastures) as a general rule will not grow, and the prairie grasses, most of them without *seeds*, cannot be reproduced, after being once destroyed. Hence the absence, throughout the south, of the green pastures so beautiful and so profitable in the north. In a wild, untilled state, the pastures are abundant, but not so when the country shall have been brought under culture. The dairy with all its rich benefits, will be unknown.

† Professor Norton, in his Appendix to Stephen's Farmers' Guide, says, that in many of the Eastern States, where wheat was once largely grown, its culture has greatly decreased, and in some districts scarcely any is to be found, except an occasional small patch of spring wheat. It is common to ascribe this to the Hessian fly, to the prevalence of rust, &c., but after we have made all due allowances for these causes of uncertain produce, the principal reason, in my judgment, is to be found in the deterioration of the land.

The climatic adaptation of the Western Province to certain forage and root crops,

In answering Mr. Caird's book I shall not attempt to depreciate the agricultural capabilities of the broad lands of our American neighbours, but apply myself to the defence of Canada, and an exposure of the gross errors and fallacies which occur in every page of "Prairie Farming in America."

We Canadians entertain no feelings but those of amity towards our American brethren. There is no desire on either side for territorial aggrandisement at the expense of the other, or for any closer political connection than that which now exists. Each nation has before it a noble mission over an ample field, and for the due cultivation of this vast space, socially, morally, and religiously, we shall assuredly have to give account. A talent of inestimable value is committed to our joint keeping, which we cannot, without guilt, allow to remain unimproved,—a jewel lent to us which we are bound to keep untarnished, remembering that we all had a common origin, have a common language, and a common faith, and are treading a path which we pray may lead to a common Home, and a glorious Heritage above.

You are good to say that the re-publication of the various letters I have written to you during the last seven years will be very useful at this moment, and I feel flattered by the wish expressed by you for their reproduction. I prefer, however, just now to confine myself to this letter as a means of introducing the able and practical communications of my friends, which you will find at pp. 15–27, and because I want an early opportunity to assure Mr. Caird that I had no feelings of "acerbity" towards him personally, but I felt that some decisive mode of expression, especially as I have truth and experience on my side, should be used to counteract the influence which his fame as a farmer, and his position as legislator might have upon persons ill-informed about Canada, and undecided about their future home in the West.

The publication of Mr. Caird has evoked many statements from anonymous writers, the insertion of which I avoid. Too many of them are writtten from a selfish, personal, and purely Upper Canadian point of view, and in their zeal to advocate their own interests and "puff" their own localities, they have overstated the advantages of this country, and also the disadvantages under which even American authorities admit the Illinois Central District to labour.

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is well deserving of notice. When ordinary care and attention is devoted to their cultivation, in the way of mere surface draining, and the application of farm-yard manure, gypsum, or lime, they grow with remarkable luxuriance. White clover springs up wherever the virgin soil is stirred with the plough, or even exposed to the sun's rays, after the process of clearing the land of its forest growth. The red clover flourishes year after year, without diminution in yield, if sparingly top-dressed with gypsum or leached wood ashes. Certain varieties of beans, (not the common horse bean), such as the dwarf, French, and kidney beans, come to maturity with remarkable rapidity, and are at the same time very prolific. Some of the dwarf varieties are especially adapted for forage crops, or even food, as in Germany and France. They may be sown in this country broadcast as late as the middle of July; they produce most abundantly and are well adapted to serve as green manure, on light soils deficient in vegetable matter.

I shall also avoid naming any one particular district or province of Canada in preference to another, as suitable fields for European settlement. Each Province has its peculiar advantages and wants, and having visited all parts of it, I come to the conclusion that the choice of a future home must depend upon the requirements, the tastes, the former pursuits, and the *stamina*, physical and intellectual, of the intending settler.

The removal of a family from the home of their childhood, manhood and old age, is a solemn step, and "should not be enterprised or taken in hand" without anxious consideration, but I repeat what I have often told you before, that many years' residence in Canada, and close observation upon her wonderful and yet almost unknown resources, constrain me to say that no British Colony presents so many examples of temporal success as Canada. The limits of this letter do not admit of my giving personal examples, but I will do so in the next edition (the tenth) of good Mrs. Traill's invaluable work, which has been so much sought after that nine editions have been exhausted, and Stanford writes for fresh supplies. On the subject of home ties and their disruption, I cannot refrain from enriching my letter with the following beautiful extract from this lady's "*Canadian Settler's Guide*," a book which every one looking this way for a home should purchase and read. It is published under the authority of the Canadian government and is thoroughly reliable. "Whatever may be the destination of the intending emigrant, let him not exclude from his entire confidence the wife of his bosom, the natural sharer of his fortunes, be the path which leads to them rough or smooth. She ought not to be dragged as an unwilling sacrifice at the shrine of duty, from home, kindred and friends, without her full consent, &c., &c." "Woman, whose nature is to love home and to cling to all home ties and associations, cannot be torn from that spot that is the little centre of joy, peace and comfort to her, without many painful regrets. No matter however poor she may be, how low her lot in life may be cast, home to her is dear, the thought of it and the love of it clings closely to her wherever she goes. The remembrance of it never leaves her; it is graven on her heart. Her thoughts wander back to it across the broad waters of the ocean that are bearing her far from it. In the new land it is still present to her mental eye, and years after she has formed another home for herself she can still recal the bowery lane, the daisied meadow, the moss-grown well, the simple hawthorn hedge that bound the garden porch, the woodbine plot, the thatched roof and narrow casement window of her early home. She hears the singing of the birds, the murmuring of the bees, the tinkling of the rill, and busy hum of cheerful labour from the village and the farm, when those beside her can hear only the deep cadence of the wind among the lofty forest trees, the jingling of the cattle-bells, or strokes of the chopper's axe in the woods. As the seasons return she thinks of the flowers that she loved in childhood; the pale primrose, the cowslip and the bluebell, with the humble daisy and heath-flowers; and what would

she not give for one, *just one* of those familiar flowers! No wonder that the heart of the emigrant's wife is sometimes sad, and needs to be dealt gently with by her less sensitive partner; who if she were less devoted to home would hardly love her more, for in this attachment to home lies much of her charm as a wife and mother in his eyes.—But kindness and sympathy, which she has need of, in time reconcile her to her change of life; new ties, new interests, new comforts arise; and she ceases to repine, if she does not cease to love, that which she has lost: in after life the recollection comes like some pleasant dream or a fair picture to her mind, but she has ceased to grieve or to regret; and perhaps like a wise woman she says—"All things are for the best. It is good for us to be here."

If I were called upon to state shortly the difference between the Upper and Lower Province, I should say Upper Canada was a wheat-growing, Lower Canada a grazing and dairy country. But you must not understand from this that Upper Canadians cannot raise stock and keep dairies, but that they *don't.** Neither do I mean to say that Lower Canada cannot produce wheat. For many, many years this part of the United Provinces was visited with the midge or weevil, and wheat culture almost ceased. Now they are free from this pest, and Lower Canada this year has splendid crops of wheat, and continues to excel in root crops. Mr. Price, the member for Chicoutimi, 200 miles below Quebec, assures me that he shall have upwards of 30 bushels an acre of fine wheat on his farm there. The accounts from the Eastern Townships are equally encouraging. In Upper Canada *all the crops*, except hay, exceed by $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent the average of either of the two last years, and 20 per cent above that of the last *seven years*. Wheat, wheat, wheat, year after year, seems to have been the *summum bonum* to which Upper Canadians aspired. There is no agricultural production which they are not able to raise quite as well if not better than our American friends on the other side the noble lake, lying in light and beauty at my very feet. Cousin Jonathan must chuckle over the fact that his Upper Canadian cousin allowed him in 1857, and there is no doubt in the same proportion since, to carry off two million pounds in exchange for broom corn, ashes,

Butter,	£10,000	Indian Corn,	£100,000
Cheese,	41,000!!	Wheat,	600,000
Flax,	24,000	Hops,	5,500!
Green Fruits,	39,000!!	Eggs,	4,600!!
Flour,	315,000	Wool,	10,000
Vegetables,	16,000	Cattle,	120,000

Meats of all kinds, £200,000!!

Thus the supineness and the want of enterprise and energy of the present race of Canadian farmers, allows the Yankee farmer to beat them in their own markets!

* Seven first class prizes for cattle were taken by Canadians at the great United States Fair held last week at Chicago!

HAPPY FARMERS OF ILLINOIS

"Sua si bona norint!"

What a terrestrial paradise where the new settler can only reckon upon "hog and hominy" for his first year's luxuries, get 2¼ per lb. for beef when ready for butcher, and four-fifths of the wheat grown in which is generally sold to distillers to make whiskey, and the balance converted into worthless flour, known in the trade as "Stumptail!" Compare this, friend of mine, with the first year's crops upon the free grants. Wheat is selling in Toronto and other markets at 120 cents per bushel, beef at six pence, and pork at five pence per lb. respectively.

The agents of the Illinois Central are prepared to flood the Provincial Show at Kingston with their books and pamphlets. It shall not be my fault if distant and ill-informed* persons are not warned in due time to save them from disease, disappointment and ruin. Families are returning by scores from Illinois to settle in Canada, and thus save the wreck of their fortunes. A few weeks since, a farmer and several fine young men, seduced by the glowing picture drawn by Caird of prairie farming, went thither, and returned dispirited and disgusted with all they saw and heard. The young men have wisely hired themselves out to learn the ways of the country, the farmer has purchased a farm of 100 acres in the Eastern Townships for five pounds currency per acre, with 60 acres cleared, a good house and offices, and has gone back to Ireland to bring out his family. Here then is an authentic evidence of the mischief done by this one-sided "Land Agent." The North of Ireland farmer has an undoubted title to his farm from the Crown; the titles to lands in the Illinois Central, I suspect, neither belong to the Railway Company nor the United States, but to certain bond-holders in England.

I abstain from further exposure of Mr. Caird's manifold inconsistencies, exaggerations, and falsehoods, and will devote the remainder of my letter to answering the questions you have submitted to me, about outfit, route, wages, the capital needed, the first year's occupation, the implements wanted, the new Crown Land Regulations, the encouragements given to colonization parties, &c., &c. The admirable pamphlet on Canada, showing its climate, resources, &c., &c., published under the authority of the Canadian Government, is to be had at Stanford's, 6 Charing Cross, or at the Canada Land Agency Office, 37 King William Street, City.

I again warn you most emphatically against certain trumpery works published by parties utterly unacquainted with Canada, and who have never spent a single hour in the country they pretend to describe. The Report of the Imperial Commissioners on Emigration

* You will be glad to hear that a British North American Club is in course of formation. In a few hours 150 good names, in this City alone, were handed in. Its probable "whereabouts" is Trafalgar Square. We "Colonists" are gradually removing the crass ignorance you Britishers labor under about your nearest and most valuable possession.

is well worth your attention, and you will find there recorded the information wanted as to the classes wanted and *not wanted* in Canada, which they have copied from the circulars issued by the Government here. The persons warned not to come at present are skilled mechanics, clerks, office-seekers, literary men without capital. The parties who may come here with fair prospects are, farmers with capital, small or large, agricultural labourers, servant girls, and boys. It is, however, late in the season for any classes to come. I have little doubt that a demand for labour will arise next spring, and of this due notice will be given. The sons of the country gentlemen of England, of their tenant-farmers, and the agricultural labourers should remember this, that Canada, the nearest and most important of British Colonies, offers to them *all* prospects of independence, (if not for themselves in all cases, most certainly for their families) which have been realized by tens of thousands of persons already here, and in store for others, if SOBER, patient, industrious, without which qualifications they must neither expect, nor do they deserve, to succeed.

"YOU GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND"

Must bear in mind that, in Upper Canada alone, we have more than 100,000 landowners; that a tenant-farmer is a very "rare bird; that the taxes to which these landowners are liable, rarely exceed five cents (3d.) in the £ upon the assessments made by themselves, and that even this small sum is applied to local purposes and improvements—road repairs, schools, &c. &c. They have no rent, no tithes, poor-rates, Church-rates, stamp-duties: tea and sugar are cheaper than at home; and nothing is dearer except wearing-apparel and bedding, and beer and porter.

The last two years have been to Canadians a period of anxious solicitude. The usual results of a wild spirit of speculation in town and village lots and wild lands, pervaded almost every class among us. Two successive crops of our great staple—wheat—deficient in quantity as well as quality, reduced us to a state of depression unknown before in our brief and prosperous national history; and the merchant at his ledger, the farmer in his clearing, and the backwoodsman in the deepest recesses of our forest solitudes, waited and watched for, with trembling anxiety and intense interest, the result of this year's cereal productions. But God, in his goodness, has blessed the work of our hands, and given us more than we could reasonably have asked, and far more than we deserve. In grateful and solemn acknowledgment of which "blessings of Peace and Plenty," His Excellency in Council has appointed the third day of November next as a General Holiday and Day of Thanksgiving throughout the Province.

During the crisis of the last two years, the Banking Institutions of Canada have withstood the pressure which, in such a state of things, was to be expected and inevitable; but not one single establishment in Canada suspended specie payments or failed; while

scores of them in the neighbouring Republic bent to the storm and—broke.

I regret to read in the American papers, that in many parts of the United States, the results of the crops of wheat and CORN are far less favorable than with us. From Mr. Caird's pet districts the reports are very gloomy, and I copy from an American paper the following letters, which have all the appearance of authenticity :—

"GRAYVILLE, White County, Illinois, Aug. 31.

"EDITORS *Press* and *Tribune :*

"*The wheat crop here, when brought to the test of the threshing machine, has sadly disappointed the farmers, and cannot be set down at more than half a crop.* Oats and grass light. The late rains have revived late potatoes, and promises a fair crop; early ones, owing to the hot dry weather in June and July, are poor. Corn, especially in the Wabash Bottoms, is excellent.

"Yours respectfully,

"SYDNEY SPRING."

"STERLING, Whiteside County, Illinois, Sept. 5.

"EDITORS *Press* and *Tribune :*

"As no one has reported the condition of the crops from this vicinity, we would call your attention to the fact that the prospect for anything but hard times, is gloomy indeed. *The frost last week has damaged the corn so that not half the average yield will be realized.* Sweet potatoes and sugar-cane have 'gone by the board.' Farmers in this section did not estimate their wheat and oats as high as many did in other places, and yet, when they came to thresh, they were sadly disappointed at the result: the yield will not bring one-half their estimate.

"Mr. Jacob Powell, near here, farms about four hundred acres, and had one hundred and thirty acres of wheat, and thought it a low estimate at twenty bushels to the acre; but when he came to thresh, *the yield was only eleven bushels to the acre.*

"It is so all through this section, and the farmers are in very low spirits, and look for another hard year. "Yours truly,

"TERRELL & HARPER."

"CARLISLE, Illinois, Sept. 5.

"MY DEAR BROTHER,—I have not written to you now for a long time—sorrow and sickness, and misery and disappointment, must plead my excuse; and as they must have formed the only subject of my letters, you may the less regret my silence. Indeed, I could not find in my heart to mar, with a detail of my own sufferings, so much comfort and happiness as seem to have fallen to your envied lot: my continued silence should still have saved you from the painful commiseration I know you will feel for me, had not the thought struck me that you might possibly be able to find some one in your neighbourhood who would exchange farms, &c., with me here, if the rage for coming to this *fine* country has reached you, of which I make little doubt, as it seems to have reached everywhere.

"If I cannot dispose of my property in some such way (selling it is out of the question), I am doomed, I was going to say, to live in this country, but rather to die; I have had more than a hint of this during the summer: I have suffered dreadfully—you would hardly know me—I am literally and really an old man; but this is not all, my farm has been totally neglected, as I could do nothing, and hiring being impracticable. "C. W."

I could multiply these painful records an hundredfold, but I do not desire to do more than prove my case, which I can easily do from the sources named, and from Caird's own book.

For example: In page 88, New York Edition, I find him writing,

—"I have already said that the wheat in Illinois has proved, during the last two years, *a very precarious crop*."

Again, at page 82, I read,—"Though these soils are so rich in nitrogen, they seem to be too loose for wheat, which is *undoubtedly* a very precarious crop. The open prairie country is so wind-swept in winter, that snow seldom lies long to any depth, and the young plant is left unprotected to the frost. Should it escape that, it is liable to be thrown out by the rapid changes of weather in the spring!!!"

At page 87, we find Mr. Caird recommending "Northern agricultural labourers to hire land and keep stock, the prices of beef and pork in Chicago market being 2¼d. and 2d. per lb. respectively; and that three year old oxen, large, and in what is considered fair condition for stall feeding, are valued at not more than £4." Fine encouragement for grazing this, for northern agricultural labourers!

OUTFIT.

I recommend parties to encumber themselves as little as possible with baggage. A good stock of apparel from head to foot is most desirable, and also a good supply of bedding—all of which are cheaper at home. They should bring their money in the shape of a letter of credit to some Bank here. Money orders for smaller sums are issued by the Grand Trunk Railway Company, Old Broad Street, London.

MODE OF CONVEYANCE.

* *Avoid the New York Route!*—Independently of all the manifold frauds practised there upon immigrants, the settler who has decided upon Canada as a home, will find himself 600 miles from British soil, with a tedious and expensive journey before him. He should avoid a sailing vessel, whose average time on the voyage is 42 days, while by the Canadian Line of Steamers the average length has been under 12 days, and probably next year will not exceed 10 days, and on board of which not a single death occurred in 1858. An extension of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada to Rivière du Loup, 120 miles below Quebec, will take place in the early part of October, and from thence the settler will be carried on moderate terms at the rate of from 20 to 30 miles per hour from one end of Canada to another. If he should prefer going to Quebec, he may choose his mode of travelling between first class steam vessels and the Railroad.

The cost of a voyage by steam very little exceeds that of a sailing vessel, and is a saving of 30 days, representing 30 days wages at five shillings currency, (four shillings stg.) a day.

WAGES.

Wages are generally lower than they were in 1856-7, but the price of flour is 50 per cent, and meat and many other necessaries of life

* The *proposed* subsidy to the Galway Line of Steamers *to the United States*, at such an enormous cost to Great Britain, has caused universal dissatisfaction throughout Canada, and our Government has earnestly and promptly protested against it. Why should the attention of British capitalists and emigrants be diverted from this country to please a few adventurers?

is now 25 per cent., lower than at that time. It is now late in the season for agricultural labourers and mechanics to emigrate. When they do come, earnestly advise them not to refuse offers of good wages, though they should be lower than those they were led to expect. Mr. Buchanan, the Emigration Agent at Quebec, has known many instances of persons who in their own country (Ireland) were glad to work at 10d. to 1s. per day refusing employment here at *three shillings* per day. They do not consider that in their first season their services are worth little more than one-half than they will earn after becoming acquainted with the country.

Emigrants *of all classes* should apply to the "Government Emigration Agents" at Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto or Hamilton. *From these gentlemen, persons of integrity and experience, they can depend upon disinterested advice!*

PROTECTION TO EMIGRANTS, &C.

A recent Act of the Canadian Legislature imposes a penalty on masters or seamen of vessels for non-observance towards emigrants, of laws of their country, or the conditions of contract for their passage.

No person is allowed to act as steamboat or railway agent, or booking emigrant passengers without a license.

Keepers of taverns receiving emigrants are required, under a penalty, to post therein lists of rates of charges, or printed cards; no tavern keeper is allowed to have a lien on the effects of any emigrant for any sum exceeding five dollars.

AMOUNT OF CAPITAL REQUIRED.

Hundreds of persons now holding high positions in the Province reached it without a shilling in their possession. Of course, persons with capital, and the discretion to use it wisely, have great advantages.

Mr. French, the Government Agent on the Opeongo Road has given the following estimate of the sum with which a family of *five* may safely go into the bush, sufficiently provisioned for *one year*.

8 barrels of Flour at £2 10s. per barrel....	£20	0	0	
2 do of Pork at £3 15s. do	7	10	0	
80 bushels of Potatoes at 2s. per bushel.....	8	0	0	
30 lbs of Tea at 2s. 6d. per lb.....	3	15	0	
1 barrel of Herrings.....	2	0	0	
½ do of Salt	0	7	6	
Cost of Provisions.....			£41	12 0

SEED.

20 bushels of Potatoes at 2s. per bushel.....	£ 2	0	0	
3 do of Wheat at 7s. 6d. do	1	2	6	
10 do of Oats at 2s. per bushel	1	0	0	
Cost of Seed.....			£4	2 6

The price of the barrel of flour is now twenty-five shillings per barrel, and seed wheat five shillings, so that the cost of these two items is reduced to £35 7s. 6d.

The other necessaries, all of which are to be purchased here, are :

1 Axe	£0	8	9	1 Fryingpan	0	3	0
1 Grindstone	0	7	6	1 Teapot	0	2	6
1 Shovel	0	1	10	6 small Tin Vessels at 4d. each	0	2	0
2 Hoes at 3s. 6d. each	0	7	0	3 large Tin Dishes at 2s. 6d. each	0	7	6
3 Reaping-hooks at 1s. 6d. each	0	4	6	6 Spoons at 2d. each	0	1	0
1 Scythe	0	5	0	6 Knives and Forks	0	5	0
1 Inch Auger	0	5	0	3 pairs of Blankets at £1 5s. per pair	3	15	0
1 Inch and a half Auger	0	7	6	2 Rugs for Quilts at 2s. 6d. each	0	5	0
1 Hand-Saw	0	7	6	2 pairs of Sheets at 3s. per pair	0	6	0
2 Water Pails at 1s. 6d. each	0	3	0	1 Smoothing Iron	0	2	6
1 Window Sash, and Glazing	0	5	0	1 Pig	0	15	0
1 Bake-Oven	0	5	0				
2 Pots at 5s. each	0	10	0				
1 Kettle	0	5	0				
Total					£10	7	1

Currency	£45	14	7
Sterling, about	37	0	0

This sum would be further considerably reduced if the parties brought their own bedding.

In the Tenth Edition of Mrs. Traill's Book, now in the Press, you will find a Diary of a year's occupation, taken from an instance which occurred in the Eastern Townships, which will give the intending settler a very clear idea of what he has to do from the day he takes possession of his farm. This seems a fitting place to caution the emigrant against any hasty movement in the way of purchase. In many cases, the more prudent way for a farmer is to rent a farm with the option of purchasing. Such farms with houses and suitable offices can often be rented at fifteen shillings sterling per annum, which sum includes rent and taxes. A farm labourer with small capital should hire himself out to some farmer to learn the ways of the country, and this advice might be safely followed by old country farmers beginning life in Canada.

FREE GRANTS—THEIR DIRECT AND COLLATERAL SUCCESS.

The statements made that these lands are situated in worthless and inaccessible districts is false. As to the first point I refer you to Mr. Hutton's letter. As to the other, I know that many hundreds of miles of road are made to the very doors of the occupiers of the Free Grants, and they are all of them within reach of Flour and Saw Mills and Stores. I have before me communications from the Government Agents on the Hastings, Addington, Opeongo and Bobcaygeon Roads, all of which give

highly satisfactory reports of the large yield of all crops, except Hay, which has failed almost universally this year, and Indian Corn, which has suffered from frosts, which are very unusual, thus early in the autumn. There are extraordinary yields upon the virgin soil, of Fife spring wheat, peas, barley, buck-wheat, oats, potatoes and turnips.

There are many collateral advantages of the Free Grant Roads. They are leading to the rapid sale and settlement of the Townships on either side of them, and the occupants of the Free Grants afford to the purchasers of these lands a supply of labour on reasonable terms. The Free Grants are of vast value to Canada, and I feel sure that within ten years each 100 acres of Free Grant will be worth £500. The price of lands in the Townships near the Free Grants is four shillings currency, *cash*—or, five shillings, to be paid in annual instalments during five years.

NEW CROWN LAND REGULATIONS.

I invite your attention to the new Crown Land Regulations, by which you will see that upon certain conditions, the fulfilment of which will be strictly enforced, blocks of land varying in extent from 40,000 to 60,000 acres may be purchased at two shillings sterling per acre. A glance at the map of Upper Canada will show where this district is situated, which is about mid-way between Lake Ontario on the south and the proposed Atlantic and Pacific *Railroad* on the north, which line will undoubtedly go from Ottawa, between Lakes Opeongo and Nipissing, and above the north shore of Lake Huron, close to the Bruce Mines and newly surveyed Townships at Sault Ste. Marie, and thence to the Rocky Mountains and Vancouver's Island. I cannot believe that any one acquainted with Canada would recommend the construction of any more canals, which in the inhospitable district between Ottawa and British Columbia would be closed by ice six months in the year. To this scheme of our Commissioner of Crown Lands I earnestly invite the attention of

THE LANDED GENTRY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The regulations are as follows:

1. That the lands in Townships which have been already delineated or may hereafter be delineated on survey by the exterior lines only, may be offered for sale *en bloc* on the following terms, viz:

2. That the price shall be two shillings sterling per acre, payable at the time of sale.

3. That the purchaser shall cause the lands to be surveyed at his own expense into lots comprising either one hundred or two hundred acres in each lot; and on the north of Lake Huron into sections of 160 acres each, except in spots where the configuration of the Township may render such exact quantities impracticable, and then as near to those allotments as possible.

4. That one-third of the quantity of land in the Township shall be settled upon within two years from the time of sale; one-third more settled upon within the following five years, that is seven years from the time of sale; and the residue within the further period of three years, *i. e.*, ten

years from the date of sale; the settlement required being that there shall be at least one *bonâ fide* settler in authorised occupation for every two hundred acres of land; all land not so settled at the expiration of ten years from the time of sale to become forfeited and revert to the Crown absolutely, except such portions thereof as shall be found unfit for settlement, or such portions as are of very inferior quality and by reason thereof have remained unoccupied, in respect to which the Governor in Council may, upon application, dispense with the forfeiture and cause the same to be conveyed to the original purchaser or assignee."

This scheme appears to me admirably calculated to prevent those gigantic speculations in wild land which have so retarded the progress of this Province, and to offer to the people of Great Britain, Norway and Germany those facilities for the formation of

COLONIZATION PARTIES,

which have been so long wanted.* The Canadian Government grants upon terms, which are all but equivalent to a gift, tracts of excellent land in those parts of the Province, now at their disposal. These Colonization parties should be formed at home.

A NEW MAP

for the guidance of Emigrants upon a novel plan suggested by the Hon. Mr. Vankoughnet, and ably carried out by Mr. Devine, has been for some time in the engraver's hands, and is nearly ready for distribution. The marginal notes on this Map will convey an immense amount of valuable information.

(*To be continued.*)

LETTER POSTAGE TO AND FROM ENGLAND.

Two ocean Steamers carrying Mails for Canada leave Liverpool in each week.

A Canadian Packet sails direct for Quebec every Wednesday during the summer months, and every alternate Wednesday for Portland during the winter months, by which the Postage rate is 6d. sterling per ½ oz., and a British Cunard Packet on every Saturday, landing Mails alternately at Boston and New York, by which the Postage rate to Canada is 8d. sterling per ½ oz.

The British Post Office forwards Letters to Canada by the first of these Packets sailing after the Letters are posted,—unless the Letters bear a special direction "*By Canadian*" or "*By British Packet*," —and in that case, the Letters are kept over for the Packet designated. Therefore to pass for the 6d. sterling rate, a Letter for Ca-

* There is a large settlement of Norwegians with considerable capital settled at Bury in the Eastern Townships. Chicoutimi and the Bay of Chaleurs in the Lower Province, and the neighbourhood of Lake Nipissing in the Ottawa country and Sault Ste. Marie in the north shore of Lake Superior appear to me to offer great advantages to Germans and Norwegians. These places afford facilities for farming, lumbering and "deep-sea" fishing.

nada must be posted so as to arrive at Liverpool in time for Wednesday's Canadian Steamer, carrying Letters at the 6d. rate, or it must be directed "*By Canadian Packet.*"

When a Letter not specially directed "*By Canadian Packet,*" reaches Liverpool between Wednesday and Saturday, it will be forwarded by the Saturday British Packet at the 8d. rate, and if only prepaid 6d., there will be 5 cents additional charged on the Letter, and payable on delivery in Canada.

In like manner as regards Letters going from Canada to the United Kingdom,—in order to pass at the 6d. rate,—they must be posted on the proper days for the Canadian Packet Mails, or bear the words "*By Canadian Packet.*"

All Letters to or from the United Kingdom should be prepaid. Letters posted unpaid will be forwarded, but they will be chargeable on delivery with a fine of 6d. sterling (12½ cents) each, *in addition to the postage.*

NEWSPAPERS TO AND FROM CANADA.

Publishers of Newspapers at home, as well as individuals, should remember that in *all* cases a Newspaper for Canada must have a Penny Stamp affixed—but if sent "By Canadian Steamer" there is no further charge on the recipient here; whereas when sent by the Cunard Line, each paper costs the recipient here one Penny, which *goes into the United States Treasury!*

All Newspapers sent from Canada to England must have a cent Stamp affixed, but if directed "By Canadian Steamer" they are delivered free at home, whereas every Newspaper sent from hence by the Cunard Line costs the recipient in Great Britain one Penny!

N.B. The Proprietors of British Newspapers should memorialize Lord Elgin to allow Newspapers *from the place of publication* to "Exchange Papers" in Canada to go free, as they do in every part of British North America and the United States. This arrangement would be mutually advantageous and the courtesy would be cheerfully reciprocated by Publishers of Canadian Papers.

REMARKS ON MR. CAIRD'S PAMPHLET.

ENTITLED "PRAIRIE FARMING IN AMERICA, WITH NOTES BY THE WAY, ON CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES."

MR. EDITOR—

Goethe has said, "It is not by attacks on the false, but by the calm exposition of the true, that good is to be done." Taking the above as an excellent rule of action, I have given Mr. Caird's Pamphlet, entitled "Prairie Farming in America," a very attentive perusal, and I think Mr. Caird deserves much credit for the candid way in which he has treated the subject of the British settlers' prospects in Illinois, in very many points of vital importance. The inferences, however, which may be fairly drawn from the facts and figures he has given

us, are in many instances, calculated to produce widely different results from that which he appears to have anticipated, and no doubt expects his reader to arrive at. Without dwelling upon the report that Mr Caird is personally and largely interested in the Illinois Central Railroad Company, and their lands, I proceed to examine the merits of his pamphlet.

The prevalence of ague to which Mr. Caird has alluded in pages 11, 12, 28, 29, 40, 59, 64, 75, 95 and 96, New York edition, especially in pages 95 and 96, where he gives the experience of a leading physican of twenty years' practice, cannot fail to be very apalling to intending emigrants who carefully peruse his work, especially as this physician plainly states that in his opinion "old people ought not to come (to Illinois) at all, as the ague is very fatal to them," and adds by way of solace, that, 'Chicago (being an older settlement) was now almost free from ague, that typhus had taken its place in a greatly modified extent, and that pneumonia and rheumatism were the only other diseases that were severe." Candid and explicit as these warnings are, it may be fairly added, that the very great prevalence of ague, and the total prostration with which it is accompanied, often extending even to weeks and months together on these prairie lands, is not sufficiently pourtrayed. It not unfrequently happens that whole families are so prostrated, that it is with difficulty any one member of it can be found able to alleviate the sufferings of the rest, and in remote situations it is often extremely difficult to procure aid from other families. The effects of this prostration are often very seriouly felt in the delay and even non-performance of the necessary farm-work, the neglect of cattle, and often the partial loss of a season's crops. For this reason, if farmers *are determined* to settle on prairie land they should make arrangement for three or four or more families to settle together, and, in charity, Mr. Caird should have suggested this; but it is my purpose to show that settlers in the bush of Canada have much better prospects in every way than in the prairies of Illinois, not only as regards the comparative freedom from ague, but for acquiring actual prosperity and speedy independence. In endeavouring to show this I will take Mr. Caird's own representations as the basis; although very great errors have crept into his work, seriously affecting the general character of Canadian soils and Canadian farming. The quotations of a few passages will serve to show how hurried must have been his ride through the country, how very erroneous the ideas which he formed. At page 20 he says, "From Prescott to Kingston, and thence to Coburg, the country is but partially cleared; very often the train shoots for many miles together through the primeval forest, a path having been cut in the woods for the railway track, and the felled trees and branches still lying where thrown, on both sides of the line." This latter assertion may be *literally* true, but Mr. Caird himself, as well as his readers, will be surprised to learn, that at least seven-eighths of this very route is through a remarkably fine agricultural country; through lands held

by the very best and most successful farmers, having very large clearances, comfortable dwellings, and out-houses, and good orchards. The counties from Prescott to Cobourg, through which Mr. Caird's route lay, contain 240,000 inhabitants. For twenty years there have been fine herds of Ayrshire and Durham cattle, little inferior to the best cattle in England, and even 40 miles back of the frontier, may be seen farms of from 200 to 400 acres, well cultivated, heavy crops, excellent horses, cattle and sheep. The Railway track was made through the rear part of their farms, purposely reserved "in primeval forest," for firewood; three-fourths probably more of their large farms being under cultivation. The Railway Company purchased the land *in rear* because the farmers did not wish their farms to be intersected by railroads, and they sold the land in the rear cheaper than they would have sold any other part of their farms. The quotation above given, shows the great danger of judging a country merely by a railroad ride; and the danger of *publishing* the impressions thus erroneously acquired, especially by so well known a man as Mr. Caird, is greater still.

This may be further illustrated by extracts from pages 26, 27, 28, and 29; and it is certainly much to be regretted that Mr. Caird remained so short a time in Canada, and took such a very cursory glance of the colony. Many of his remards are truthful and valuable but no individual, travelling as Mr. Caird did, *could* form a correct opinion of the agricultural status and prospects of Canada. At page 26, &c., he says, "the country from Hamilton to Paris is undulating, and seems an easier and more fertile soil; very little of it is wholly cleared; certainly more than half is still an unbroken forest, but the trees are immensely tall and show the rapid growth which only a fertile soil could produce. Though this district is quite within the limit profitable of the culture of Indian Corn, a small proportion only of the land seems to be occupied by that crop. Its great value is everywhere admitted, but on this description of soil its cultivation demands too much labour. The last grain crop can hardly have been great, for in very few instances indeed are ricks to be seen outside the barns, and they are not capacious enough to contain large crops," &c.

Had Mr. Caird journeyed through this country in any other way than by railway, he would have formed a much more correct opinion of the extent under cultivation; this he has very much underrated. Fully three-fourths of this whole district of country is cleared and enclosed, and a large portion of it highly cultivated. If there was little Indian Corn in 1858, it was because other crops promised to pay better, and the spring of 1858 was peculiarly wet and cold; but there is a very large extent of it this year, and although a little late it will prove an abundant crop. The absence of ricks outside the barn, as alluded to by Mr. Caird, is owing to the great abundance of timber, and the great facility with which Canadians construct large barns, quite sufficient to hold even very luxuriant crops. Every

good Canadian farmer provides substantial covering for his whole crops, instead of having recourse to ricks with their temporary covering of straw. The material, except nails, they have within themselves, and most of them can help to build them. The work of building a barn 60 feet by 30, and 18 feet post, can be done for £40 stg.; and most good farmers have two if not three of these large barns, besides long sheds in which to store hay, &c.; so that the absence of ricks is no criterion of deficiency, but on the contrary, their presence is rather a sign that the farmer is a new settler and as yet unable to put up the permanent covering for his produce, which old and successful farmers universally provide. As to Mr. Caird's assertion that on this "easier and more fertile soil" the cultivation of Indian corn demands too much labor, it may be safely urged that labor is cheaper in Canada than in Illinois, and that the corn crop is nearly as productive in the district he alludes to as it is in Illinois, and being of much superior quality sells at a much higher price. The fact is, that wheat in this district has been hitherto so fine, and selling at such high prices, that the growth of Indian Corn has been neglected too much for the welfare of the farmer. This very part of Canada which Mr. Caird describes in the above quotation is noted for producing the very finest samples of wheat, weighing 62 lbs., and even 63 lbs., to the Winchester bushel, and has for years carried off the Canada Company's prize of $100; and it was in this district that the prize wheat exhibited at the Crystal Palace in England, was grown. There are often from 50 to 150 acres of wheat on one farm in this section. The great inducement to sow wheat, has hitherto caused many farmers to tresspass too much perhaps, upon the properties of the soil required for this crop; but if Mr. Caird were this year to visit this part of the country, and view it (not from a rail-car window) he would find more extensive fields of his favourite crop, and likely to pay a higher *acreable* profit than the Illinois prairie land, because the prices in Canada are almost double those of Central Illinois, where the corn is of a coarser description. This perseverance in the growth of wheat is an evil that time will remedy; especially as the growth of other grain and also sheep, and dairy farming, are more certainly remunerating. Another extract from page 28 gives a remarkable instance of misguided judgment and grievous misrepresentation, the first clause however, of the extract being perfectly true.

Mr. Caird says, "a light sandy loam of good quality, only half cleared, is still valued at from £7 to £8 an acre, (sterling no doubt, as all his pounds are sterling throughout the pamphlet). It is this comparatively high price of land in addition to the cost of clearing off the timber, that forces the emigrant westwards to a country where better soil with equal facilities of transport, can be bought for less than the mere cost of clearing this of its timber."

Taking the word "westwards" to mean Central Illinois, which seems to be the summit of Mr. Caird's American predilections, it

may be most safely asserted that the soil there is *not better*, that the facilities of transport are *not equal*, and that even supposing land in Illinois could be bought for less than the mere cost of clearing in Canada (say £3 10s sterling per acre), Mr. Caird has omitted to state the value of the timber cleared off. He will be surprised to be told that many pine trees on these very farms are and were worth from 6s. to 15s. each. It is not unusual for one tree to produce five saw logs of 12 feet long each, worth 4s. to 5s. stg. each log. The timber alone, of well grown cedar swamps in all the settled districts of Canada West, is worth £4 to £5 per acre on the spot; and even if the hard wood is all burned to ashes, the ashes of 3 acres will with very little outlay of capital or labor, produce a barrel of potash worth £6 sterling. The value of the timber on our wild lands in good situations, where saw-mills, or rivers to float saw-logs, are accessible, is very considerable. Our forests, instead of being a bugbear to the intelligent emigrant, are a very great source of wealth, and enable him to pay for his land and erect the required buildings, and supply fence rails and fuel, sugar, &c., which the settler on the prairie has to purchase, and sometimes at very high rates. That the soil is not better in Illinois than in Canada West, can be easily proved. Which gives the largest crops of wheat per acre of the best quality? Decidedly Canada West. The probable average of Illinois is stated by Mr. Caird at pages 55 and 89, as twenty bushels per acre, but at pages 54 he gives the *probable* yield at 18 to 20, and the *real* yield "nothing but shrivelled husk;" and again at page 52, as nearly a total failure, and 600 acres killed by frost, and at pages 75 and 76, he gives the yield of 1857, as little more than 6 bushels per acre, and according to the United States census of 1850-51, Illinois did not yield ten bushels per acre, whereas the average of all Canada West that year was 16 14-60, and of the counties to which Mr. Caird alludes to in the above extract, the average was 21 bushels. Then as to *quality of wheat*, that of Central Illinois is notoriously inferior. Merchants in Toronto import large quantities of it at about half the price of Canada wheat for distillery purposes, not being fit for making flour, except what is denominated by the Americans, "Stump-tail flour," being of a third or fourth rate quality, and this is the general character of the prairie wheat in Central Illinois. Then as to price, Mr. Caird quotes it in several places at 3s stg., (75 cents). At the very time Mr. Caird quotes this as being the price in the Illinois markets, Canada wheat was selling in Toronto and Hamilton and all our frontier markets, at exactly double that amount, 6s. stg., ($1.50) and at this date Upper Canada wheat is selling in our markets at double the price of Illinois wheat in Illinois markets.

Let old country farmers remember this, that even supposing the yield of bushels per acre to be the same, the price in Canada is double and of course the value per acre double, and giving Mr. C.'s own averages, 20 bushels per acre, and his own prices, 3s. stg. per bushel, the Canadian farmer would pocket £3 stg. per acre more than the

prairie farmer in Illinois; and this £3, be it remembered, is good interest for £50 on every acre of land sown in wheat, say one-sixth of the whole arable land, or £8 6s. 8d. per acre on all the wheat-producing land on the farm.

As far therefore, as the culture of *wheat* is concerned, the settler in Canada West has a vast advantage over the settler in the Illinois prairie, the yield, the quality, and the price, being all superior in Canada West. The peninsula of Upper Canada consists of soils similar to those of the Genesee valley, in the State of New York, distinguished for the finest quality of wheat, which the American miller eagerly buys to mix with the coarser wheats of the Western States. Canadian wheat makes the very finest flour, whilst Western wheat makes only second and third rate qualities. The area of the fine wheat-growing lands on this continent is very limited, and Upper Canada occupies a large portion of it.

But, says Mr. Caird, "Indian corn is a great staple in Illinois." Let us take him at his own shewing, and let us see the result. The average produce he gives in two places is 50 bushels per acre, and at another 40. The price at page 61, is 8d. per bushel; at page 74, 10d.; and at another place, page 51, one farthing per pound, or 1s. 3d. per bushel; at pages 87 and 89, 1s. 8d. per bushel. Taking the price at 1s. 3d. sterling on the spot, and the produce per acre at 50 bushels (which is far too high an averge, 40 being much more like the truth) we have £3 2s. 6d. per acre the produce of a good average corn crop in Illinois. The cost of twice ploughing, planting, horse-hoeing, &c., is at least £2 2s. 6d. per acre, and the prairie farmer has £1 per acre at this shewing for himself for interest on his purchase money, fencing, buildings, &c. Mr Caird has truly and admirably said (page 54):—"If a man buys 600 acres and has not the means of cultivating more than 60, the 540 acres are a dead loss to him. He has to pay either the price or the interest of the price of this large, unproductive extent of land. The produce of the 60 acres is called upon to bear not only its own burden, but that of the nine-tenths which are idle.—"The lean kine thus eat up the one fat one." Probably four-fifths of the settlers buy what is called one quarter section (being 160 acres) and are not able for two or three years to cultivate more than the fourth of it; thus, the 40 or 80 acres under cultivation or whatever it may be, have to pay the whole interest on the purchase money of the 160 acres, and buildings erected. The rent or interest of course will vary, but taking the price at £3 stg, and the fencing at 16s. per acre, and the buildings &c., at £100, the rent of 40 acres cropped, with house built, would be about £42 10s.,—thus:

First cost of land, at £3 per acre	£480	0	0
Cost of fencing 160 acres, at 16s. per acre, being 640 rods, at 4s. stg.....	128	0	0
Buildings, Well, &c., &c.....	100	0	0
	£708	0	0

This £708 at 6 per cent would be about £42 10s., or 21s. 3d. sterling per acre, leaving the farmer minus 1s. 3d. per acre on the actual cost, giving him barely laborer's wages and no interest for his working-cattle, implements, &c., &c. The fencing of 160 acres, requires 640 rods of fence, which, at a very low calculation, is worth $1 per rod, or 4s. sterling. Mr. C. makes the expense of fencing £60 pounds per mile (see page 55), but considering that price too high, I have taken £40 per mile. If a whole section is purchased (a mile square) the otuside fence on all sides would be four miles, and the acreable cost of enclosing would be much less than where only a quarter section is purchased; but every prairie farmer as well as every other farmer requires sub-divisions of his farm, and 16s. sterling per acre, is a very low estimate of the cost of fencing on any farm. So that Mr. Caird's representation, at pages 89 and 90, where he says: "The third year begins by the prairie farmer finding himself the unencumbered owner of his land, all fenced and improved, with a stock of horses and implements, and the whole of his original capital in his pocket," is a monstrous delusion, calculated to do immense injury to his readers, who may be thereby tempted to settle on the aguish, treeless, shelterless, and arid prairies of Illinois. The idea, too, expressed at page 90, that, "he may continue to crop his farm with Indian corn from which he will reap very large returns on his capital," is, to say the least of it, a much too glowing and sanguine view of the prairie farmer's prospects. At page 60 he gives the opinion of a Mr. Brown, an old farmer in the country, "that more money has been made, and may be made in this state by *stock* farming than by corn growing;" and adds, (page 61) "but he has not found short horned stock so successful on the natural prairie grass, of which, on his own lands, he has no longer any."

To give us an idea of *stock* farming, Mr. C. tells us (page 71) that "Oxen of 3 years old, large, and in what we should reckon fair condition for stall feeding, are valued here, *i. e.*, Central Illinois, at not more than £4!" And again, at page 69, he quotes the price of beef at 2d lb.; and at page 72, a Kentucky farmer admits that two acres of his best blue grass land in Illinois, were needed to fatten a 3 year old short horned ox. At these prices stock farming cannot be profitable at all, and if *better* than corn growing, what inference may we draw? The story of the ox and two hogs eating a hundred bushels of Indian corn, (page 74) and then being sold at 2d per lb., is not calculated to give very favourable views of prairie farming. It is well Mr. Caird has so frankly represented these facts to enable British farmers to judge for themselves. It may be well to state here that cattle, sheep, beef, mutton, pork and grain of all kinds in Canada, are fully double the prices quoted by Mr. Caird as being the prices in central Illinois; and intelligent British farmers will no doubt govern themselves accordingly, especially as all other crops, except Indian corn, are more productive in Canada West and labour quite as cheap. These high prices may be supposed to militate

against mechanics and manufacturers, but where agricultural products are high, mechanics find more employment and better wages than when they are low. The farmers being more prosperous are better able to carry on improvements of all kinds. Mr. C. at page 50 quotes the wages of a journeyman carpenter at 4s. per day with his board; these wages are rather lower than in Canada, but the colony has suffered so severely by the late exceptional reverses, that there is little employment for tradesmen at present at high wages. If we have a good harvest and an average crop, times will improve rapidly, but it may be safely stated that it is not probable that either Illinois or Canada will ever again reach that state of inflated prosperity, caused by the late expenditure of millions of dollars in the purchase and formation of railway routes. The benefit to the Colony will be permanent and substantial, but the first pioneers of the benefit will probably be severe sufferers. Mr C. has well said, and it appears true with regard to Canada also, that, "the development of railway accomodation has been too rapid and has for the present outrun the immediate requirements of Illinois."

I have alluded to the fact that wheat and all other grain, except Indian corn, are more productive in Canada West than in central Illinois. The circumstances of climate are perhaps the chief cause of the superiority of Canada West. The great wheat producing countries of Europe lie between the 50th and 59th degrees of north latitude where the summer temperature is from 55 to 65 degrees, but in central Illinois, where the latitude is about 38°, the summer heat is 78° and often as high in the shade as from 90° to 100° in June, July and August. This climate is too hot for the profitable culture of European grains or grasses; they grow there, it is true, but are generally of a very inferior description. The wheat this year (1859) is fortunately a very tolerable sample, and the yield a fair average; much of it was harvested the first week of July; one very large field, I was told by a farming friend who witnessed the operation, was cut with a "heading machine," *i. e.*, the heads of the wheat were cut off immediately below the ear, and dropped into a box which was emptied into waggons accompanying the machine. The straw, being of little value, was left standing.

As far as regards the wheat crop, this year is an improvement upon several of the past years; but as to other crops, barley, oats, rye and peas, there does not appear to be much change for the better. With the exception of Indian corn they are not by any means extensively or successfully cultivated.

By the last census of Canada, taken in 1851-52, her population was about 1-13th of that of the Union, her occupied acres about 1-17th; yet her growth of wheat was very nearly one sixth of that of the whole Union, of barley it was more than one fourth, and of oats one seventh. Of all grain, exclusive of Indian corn, Canada produced *one-sixth of that of the whole Union, territories included.*

These are important facts for the consideration of British emi-

grants, who instead of settling on the bleak prairies of the United States, may wish to enjoy a climate not very different from their own, and decidedly healthful; and who may wish to cultivate the same species and description of grain that they have been used to, or to continue their dairies, or to indulge in their beef and mutton producing tendencies, with a fair hope of remuneration.

The prospect of having but little fruit in Central Illinois, is another very important consideration. The land where trees do not naturally grow, can scarcely be expected to be very congenial to fruit trees. It is only too true, that in many parts of Illinois, fruit trees will not thrive.

Another extract from Mr. Caird (page 29) is worthy of comment, as it portrays a great want of knowledge of facts with regard to the relative increase of population in Canada and Illinois, and is calculated to mislead his readers. Mr. C., says, "Canada West is richer than Canada East, and is more populous, but there is a richer Territory still farther west, where labour is yet more productive, and, though in the present state of the country the risk of health is greater, it is ten times more populous, for men push on to the land in which they can most quickly and easily earn an independence."

What will Mr. Caird himself say when he is told that Canada West has increased in population in a much greater ratio than his favorite State of Illinois.

By the United States census of 1850, it appears that the three states of Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois, contained in 1830 1,126,851, and in 1850, 3,505,000; a little over 320 per cent. in 20 years. Canada West contained in 1830, 210,437; in 1850, 791,000, which is over 375 per cent. for the same period of 20 years, so that the increase in these choice states was 55 per cent. less than that of Canada West during the same time. Some of our Counties in Canada West, viz.: Huron, Perth, and Bruce, have increased 571 per cent. in ten years.

Comparing the last decade of Canada West with that of the United States, we find that the increase during the 10 years from 1840 to 1850, was 35.27 per cent., whilst that of Upper Canada was 104.58 per cent.

We have had no census in Canada since 1851-52, but there is every reason to believe that the ratio of increase, not including immigration, has continued very much the same, and there is a *certainty* that Mr. Caird's representation as to comparative increase of population in Illinois is entirely *erroneous*. Immigration to the United States has fallen off quite as much in proportion as that into Canada. The statement that an independence can be more quickly and easily earned in Illinois than in Canada West, is simply a delusion, and has been frequently proved by the return of settlers, who, like Mr. Caird, were attracted by the more inviting appearance of prairies to old country eyes. But as Mr. Caird has given a Dr. and Cr. for Illinois, at page 89, I will give a similar one for Canada. Let old country capitalists who can command the required sum, (say £750 stg.) diligently compare the two and keep in mind the permanent difference in the

quality and prices of produce, and the healthfulness of Canada, and the choice between the two will be no difficult matter to decide, even in the matter of dollars and cents, without alluding to our British Constitution, our British feeling, British tone of morality, our British social atmosphere, &c., which Britons always appreciate more highly after a short residence in the United States.

Mr. Caird thus gives the probable Dr. and Cr. of 100 acres of land for two years in Central Illinois.

Dr.

Cash price of 100 acres, sterling	£200	0	0
Contract price of fencing, breaking, sowing with wheat, reaping and threshing, and building a laborer's cottage and stable and shed	250	0	0
Capital invested in the purchace of four horses, implements, and harness	110	0	0
	£560	0	0
2nd year, wages of 2 men, horse-keep, taxes & accounts	200	0	0
	£760	0	0

Cr.

1st crop wheat, 2000 bus. at 3s. 6d., £350; 2nd crop Indian corn, 5000 bus. at 1s. 8d., £416...	£766	0	0			
Surplus after 2nd crop, besides the value of land & stock				£6	0	0

In Canada West the Dr. and Cr. are on the same basis. Taking 100 acres brought into cultivation, would stand thus: Capitalists can bring 100 acres into cultivation in Canada, as well as in the United States, although such is seldom or never done that I am aware of.

Dr.

Cash price of 100 acres of land, at 3s. 3d	£16	5	0
Contract price of clearing, fencing, and seeding, at £3 10s. per acre	350	0	0
Contract price of building a small house or shed	50	0	0
Capital invested in oxen, (two yoke) chains, &c	34	0	0
Capital invested in Potash Kettle	10	0	0
Capital invested in labour making potash and barrels	40	0	0
Second year, board and wages of 3 men and 5 in harvest, ox keep, &c	180	0	0
	£680	5	0

Cr.

Potash 20 barrels, at £6	£120	0	0			
Pine timber, say 100 trees, at 6s	30	0	0			
(Where the timber is good for making potash there is for this reason I have set down a small sum.)						
First crop of wheat 2000 bushels at 5s	500	0	0			
Second crop, barley, rye, oats, peas, and potatoes, at £3 per acre, average	300	0	0			
				950	0	0
Surplus after the second crop, besides land, &c...				£269	15	0

This comparison, which is justly and fairly given, shows that the Canadian capitalist has the advantage over the prairie capitalists of £269 15s. stg., in two years; and to show that these representations are by no means overdrawn, I give below the *official* published returns by our Government Agent, on the Ottawa, of the total produce of 800 acres of newly cleared land, for the year 1858, with the prices which he has attached, and which are not as may be deemed exceptional.

Mr. French says:—"Upon these 800 acres there were raised:—

5726	bushels of Wheat at $1 per bushel.....	$5726	00
2916	" Oats at 40 cents per bushel.....	1166	40
149	" Barley at 50 cents per bushel ...	74	50
168	" Indian Corn at $1 per bushel...	168	00
16799	" Potatoes at 40 cents per bushel,	6718	80
6350	" Turnips at 10 cents per bushel..	635	00
87	tons of Hay at $5 per ton.....	435	00
260	tons of Straw at $4 per ton	1040	00
4012	lbs. of Sugar at 10 cents per lb.....	401	20
108	barrels of Potash at $24 per barrel	2592	00
9159	bushels of Ashes at 8 cents per bush.....	739	92
	Making a total of.....	$19695	82

and showing the average value of each acre to be something over $24 60c. or £5 sterling for one year," an amount far above Mr. Caird's representation of the Illinois Prairies. For *three* of the above articles viz., potatoes, hay, and straw, a market could not be found on a prairie farm; and three other articles, potash, ashes, and sugar, could not be produced. Mr. French has omitted to give credit for the timber used in their houses and sheds, or sold to timber merchants.

Let old country farmers carefully compare these two statements, and remember also that they are likely to have good health in Canada, good water, and plenty of it, and no necessity of Artesian wells 127 feet deep; good apples and pears and small fruit, and vegetables of every kind in abundance, good markets for every thing they grow, good timber for their houses and fences and fires, and a good Government that provides handsomely for the education of their families —even much better than in the United States—and if they will be guided by the honest opinion of a man of 25 years experience in Canada as an agriculturalist, they will pause before they prefer the prairies of Central Illinois to the woods of Canada. The woods modify the heat of summer and cold of winter, whilst the Prairies of Illinois are subject to terrific winds and storms and snow in winter, and often most dreadful and devastating fires—and the ever falling leaves of our woods are ever depositing a rich compost, far superior to that of the long thin prairie grass. There is still another very important consideration regarding these level prairie lands, that is, that many of them cannot be settled on till drained of the sour and

unwholesome surface water, and, from the nature of the country, draining is a very expensive operation and not unfrequently entirely impracticable. Deep permanent springs are often very difficult to find, and there is much suffering both by man and beast for want of really good pure water.

To corroborate what I have said, with regard to the deficiency of the yield of wheat, and other crops in the United States, I give below a quotation from a very late and very clever publication by John Jay, being "A statistical view of American Agriculture, its home resources and foreign markets, &c., in an address delivered at New York before the American Geographical and Statistical Society, on the organization of the Agricultural Section," New York, 1859. "The average number of bushels of wheat to the acre in Alabama and Georgia is five; in North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee, seven, ranging upwards in the other States until it reaches twelve in New York, Ohio, and Indiana; thirteen in Maryland, and Vermont; fourteen in Iowa and Wisconsin; fifteen in Florida, Pennsylvania and Texas; and six- (the highest average) in Massachusetts. Oats range from ten bushels to the acre through various intermediate gradations, to thirty-five and thirty-six bushels, which is the highest." The journal of the Highland Society of Scotland thus observes. "If the above statement, as given by Mr. Jay, be correct, the state of farming in many parts of America must be indeed in a wretched condition—the American maximum corresponds to our minimum," adding however the following, which appears to be only too true with regard to late years, but reports of this year's crop indicate that the evil is not progressing. "We believe," says the *Journal*, "that the wheat crop has recently suffered much from the increased ravages of insects, and from various diseases to which it seems to be becoming more and more subject."

Since the above was written, the prospects of the wheat crop in the United States this year appear to be more promising than usual, and in Canada there is every prospect of a very handsome return. From all quarters of Canada West, reports have been sent to this office of expected large crops of wheat, say from 30 to 40 bushels per acre, and of spring grain most abundant supplies, including that of Indian Corn; and corroborative of what I have stated, with regard to the yield of this grain in Illinois not exceeding 40 bushels per acre, I again quote Mr. Jay's statement, as given by the same journal:— "Commencing, he says, at eleven bushels per acre, the returns of produce of Indian Corn range through various gradations in the different States, up to 32 in Vermont and Iowa; 33 in Missouri: 36 in Ohio, and 40 in Connecticut." This last is the highest return given.

I am, Sir,

Yours, with respect,

WILLIAM HUTTON,

Secretary Bureau of Agriculture.

Toronto, July 22, 1859.

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS IN ILLINOIS.

[*From Editorial Correspondence of "The Leader," communicated by Mr. C. Lindsey, during the month of August last.*]

RELATIVE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE IN ILLINOIS AND UPPER CANADA.

The official statistics of Canada and the United States show the value of life to be nearly seventy per cent. less in Illinois than in Canada. The annual mortality per thousand of the population stands thus:—

Illinois	13.6*
Upper Canada	8.0†

This difference in the chances of life in Illinois and Canada are mainly accounted for by the great number of diseases which malaria produces. * * * A medical man, who has given me his name with liberty to use it, assures me that the number of deaths in the State of Illinois, where he lived a long while, from malaria, is astonishing. He says that nearly all the diseases there are the effects of malaria. The prairie ague debilitates the system and renders it an easy prey for the conquest of other diseases. The typhoid which prevails results from malaria; and an ague subject not unfrequently dies of pneumonia (lung fever) in the Spring. Congestive chill is as sure to prove fatal on the third attack, as apoplexy. The congestion commences in the capitulary vessels, and extending to the veins, causes the patient to present a blue appearance; the blood fails to return to the heart, and death ensues. In some parts of Illinois, he says—and on this point his testimony is corroborated by that of another gentleman who was present at the conversation of which I am giving the result—the ague returns with as much regularity every year as the sun does every day. Farmers prepare to meet it; they do what they must before it comes; and prepare to bear the annual shake as best they may. The ague is not diminishing, the medical man in question thinks, in Illinois, where his experience has been long and *serious;* for he has undergone the ordeal himself; and it is frequently of such intensity as to prove fatal through the medium of congestive chill, pneumonia, typhoid, or some other disease induced by the debility which it generates.

Since my other letter (August 10th) was written, I have had an opportunity of conversing with another physician, on the subject of the prairie ague and its fatal effects. He fully confirms what the other physician told me regarding the congestive chill. He goes further, or rather adds something additional, by way of explanation. He says he has known strong men, after only two or three days of prairie ague, to be seized with congestive chills; and those are just as likely to succumb under the paroxysm as the most emaciated. He confirms the statement that the third chill is always considered fatal;

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* De Bow's compendium of the Seventeenth Census of the United States, p. 105.
† *Canadian Naturalist and Geologist*, June, 1859.

though he mentioned two cases in which he had been able to break the disease after the occurrence of two chills; one of a strong man suddenly attacked, the other of a lady in a delicate situation. Ague, says this physician, is more general at present than last year, in consequence of the lowness of the Mississippi.

The same subject is continued under date of Mendota, Illinois, August 11, 1859:

I left Burlington this morning by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad—first ferrying across the Mississippi—and arrived there between two and three o'clock this afternoon. The distance is some 120 miles. The road, for some distance from the starting point, runs along the side of a swamp, on the margin of the river, some four or five miles wide. The prairie, nearly all of which in the vicinity of the road is under cultivation,—and a large proportion of it is or has been under crop this year,—is little else than one continuous flat. Scarcely any rolling land occurs; and in the entire distance of 120 miles *we did not cross more than one stream of any kind.* The farmers depend for water upon two sources; what are called sloughs, which, with very few exceptions, dry up at certain seasons, and wells. The water in the sloughs, however well it may serve the purposes of cattle, cannot be wholesome for man. The drinking of it is one of the causes of ague. I heard, the other day, of a farmer who sold out an Illinois farm on account of the difficulty of obtaining good water. In this neighbourhood it is readily procured by sinking wells. * * *

The sloughs, before mentioned, produce malaria, in the process of drying up. Every body I find here is only too familiar with the reputation of the congestive chill, and its certain fatality in the third paroxyism. A clergyman who is lecturing here to-night on "War and Prophesy" tells me that he has known numerous instances of this disease. It is liable to occur at any season of the year; and the strongest are frequently cut off in a few days. A friend of his, who lived farther north than this point, in Illinois, was attacked with it last November, one night after supper. He hurried to bed; but it was to the bed of death; he expired at the end of eight days. One gentleman who evidently wished to make light of this terrible disease, told me that the doctors were in the habit of putting down to congestive chill nearly all sudden deaths that occur; and for his part he was not prepared to admit any difference between it and fatal disease of the heart; with which, in point of fact, it has no sort of connection or similarity. But if doctors are in the habit of frequently reporting sudden deaths from congestive chill, the fact is, to say the least of it, an unpleasant one for the dwellers on these prairies.

Again under date, Sandoval, August 13:

The bottom land of the Grand Prairie may boast a soil of undoubted fertility; but it is wanting in two most important elements of civilization—wood and water. Not a tree is to be seen; not a stream occurs for hundreds of miles; not a drop of water is to be had but what the sloughs present; and this is necessarily of the worst qual-

ity. Besides, this source fails every year, leaving malaria behind it; with the whole train of diseases of which malaria is the father: fever and ague, bilious fever—which occurs in the fall—the terrible congestive chill, and what is called "winter fever," being, according to some doctors, a compound of lung fever, bilious affection and erysipelas. I met here a man from the east who had had terrible experience of these classes of diseases. Twelve years ago, being somewhat feeble in health, he was travelling in the hope of obtaining relief by fresh air, in new scenes. It was in the fall of the year when he arrived in this neighborhood; and he was attacked with bilious fever, by which he was confined for an entire year, at the end of which time—he is not a large man—he was reduced to 96 lbs. weight, including the chair and pillows on which he sat. That, he said, accounted for his being here. The sickly season, he says, regularly recurs every fall, on the drying up of the waters, about the latter end of August or the beginning of September. Ague was formerly universal; it was the current opinion that no stranger could escape it. And whenever a large quantity of prairie is broken up, this disease assumes its former intensity. On the lowering or the drying up of the few rivers that occur—my informant named only two—the diseases which diffused malaria produces never fail to make their unwelcome appearance. One of the signs of the coming sickly season presented itself in the thick fog which I mentioned in my last. There was a repetition of it, in a modified form, last night; and it is regarded as the sure precursor of disease. When fogs occur every night in succession, or every alternate night, for some time, the poisonous effects of the malaria soon begin to develop themselves.

And in a letter dated Kankakee, August 18th:

Mr. Allen Rakestaw, who has lived here twenty-seven years, says he must have known as many as 200 fatal cases of congestive chill. He puts his faith in a sort of "No. 6" of his own concoction, which, from the compounds he mentioned, must be particularly hot, as a preventive of all kinds of diseases arising from malaria.

WOODLAND AND PRAIRIE FARMING.

The want of timber on these extensive prairies is severely felt by all who have been accustomed to have at their command an abundant supply for all purposes. I have only met one man, who, with an experience of hard-wood land and prairie, declared his preference for the latter; while I have met numerous instances to the contrary. Yesterday [Aug. 11], for instance, I had a conversation with a farmer, who was born on timbered land in Indiana, and who, coming into this State, settled on prairie land near Dixon. He says that if a prairie farm be properly fenced—say, in addition to a ring-fence, it be divided into 20-acre fields—it will cost about as much as it would to bring a wood-farm into cultivation: and I am satisfied that his statement can be shown to be correct, from data furnished by the advocates of prairie over hard-wood farming. But, as a matter of fact, the prairie farms, he assured me, are not generally fenced so that they can be

worked to advantage. It frequently happens that the owners of a section of land—a mile square—combine to make a ring-fence around the section: thus the four farms are held in common. Now, everyone who knows anything of farming in England prior to the passing of the General Enclosure Act, is aware of the disadvantages of common fields, even under the old four-fold system. But those disadvantages were as nothing compared to those which result from fencing farms in common in this State. Under the four-fold system, a field of —say 2000 acres—would only be cropped with grain every alternate year. Wheat would follow a dead fallow; as peas or beans would follow clover or rye-grass. Valuators determined the quantity of stock which each farmer was entitled to put into the field in the year in which grain was not grown; and there were no crops to be injured by cattle or sheep. But look at farming in common here. Four farms occupy a square mile. One farmer does not get his corn into the ground in time to permit of its ripening early, or he is not able from sickness or other cause—and the time for gathering it is identical with the sickly season—to reap as soon as his neighbour. In that case one of two serious inconveniences must follow: either his neighbours' cattle—supposing them to be turned into the common field—will destroy his corn; or the fall grazing will be lost, by the frost blasting vegetation before the corn is reaped. If the farmer has a ring-fence round his own quarter section, without a division of his farm into suitable fields, the same difficulties will occur, in a modified form. And if he fences as he ought to fence, the old Indiana farmer is right in saying the cost, with other expenses incidental to prairie farming, will equal that of clearing wood-land.* Upon the whole, and after a trial of both, he said he would prefer woodland. A prairie farm is more convenient to work than a wood farm, for some years, owing to the absence of stumps; and other things being equal, it would for the same reason produce more grain—an acre of prairie land presenting a larger surface capable of bearing grain than an acre of woodland covered with stumps. But where only spring wheat can be grown, the productive capacity of a country is not comparable to that of Upper Canada, where both descriptions of wheat—winter and spring—can be grown; and thus the advantage of climate

* In a work, entitled "ILLINOIS, AS IT IS," by Mr. Fred. Gerhard, published at Chicago, in 1857, we find, among the most extravagant eulogiums of Illinois, the following statement: "In building board fences, iron posts and pine boards are made use of, and constructed in such a manner that two posts and three boards constitute a panel. The cost would be, for boards and hauling, $1.15 per rod; and the boards for 320 rods of fencing, the amount for 40 acres, would cost $368. About 700 posts, at 11 cents each, would cost $77. For putting up the fence, the cost would be—for digging post-holes and setting posts, $28; for nails, $19; for nailing, $14; making the whole cost of fencing 40 acres, $506." This is over $13 an acre—equal to the cost of clearing and fencing a wood-farm—and the lot has only a ring-fence round it. Divide it into fields of 10 acres, as a 40-acre farm ought to be, and add the cost of erecting buildings in a country where lumber costs $16 to $18 per 1000 feet, and an accurate idea of the facilities of prairie farming will then be obtained.

possessed by the latter, must be added to that of timber. Then the question of water is an important matter, and must be taken into account. Where all the water that exists upon a farm occurs in sloughs—which dry up in summer and leave malaria behind them; where there is no unfailing resource but wells, which have to be sunk from twenty to thirty feet, the disadvantage is so marked, that a country so situated cannot be compared to one like Canada, which abounds everywhere with living streams of pure water, from which, as a rule, malaria is not generated.

CONDITION OF THE CANADIANS WHO HAVE EMIGRATED TO ILLINOIS.

KANKAKEE, August.

There are no less than five French Canadian settlements in this neighbourhood—Kankakee, Bourbonnais, St. Anne, St. Mary's (situated beyond St. Anne, on Beaver River), and Iroquois. A portion of these settlers planted themselves in the woods that fringe the border of the Kankakee, but the majority of them are upon prairie land. Their farms vary in size from a few acres to some of the largest to be found in the country; and while some are doing well, others are in a miserable condition. A large number of them have 40-acre lots. Some of them cannot get a bit of wood for fuel short of nine miles; and in the cold weather of last winter, they burned corn-cobs as a substitute for more substantial fuel. Some who live at St. Anne, eke out an existence by cutting wood in an unoccupied swamp, four or five miles from that place, and selling it at Kankakee. A man will cut a load one day, and draw it home with a span of horses or a yoke of cattle; and next day bring it to Kankakee, where it fetches about $1 50—all the remuneration he gets for two days' labour and the use of his team. In the hay line, I observed a similar state of remuneration. A Frenchman, from France—for there are a few of those intermingled with the French Canadians—brought in a load of hay, for which he asked $1 50. The gathering of the hay and bringing it to market, must have consumed two days. He protested that he could raise more from two arpents in France than from forty arpents here; and declared that nothing prevented his going back but the want of means. Of the crops he gave a very bad account: the small grains, he insisted, were utterly worthless; and although this may have been his own case, I was told by others that wheat would average about five bushels in this neighbourhood. One man, who lives twelve miles from here, and who got the bilious fever in July—he still has a most emaciated appearance—told me that he had reaped eighty acres of wheat, but said he should have been richer if he had allowed it to remain in the field, as what he gathered did not pay the cost of cutting. In the presence of some residents of Kankakee, the farmer alleged that about every other person had the ague; but this was a manifest exaggeration, and the statement was denied on the spot. One person told how many years he had been here—I forget the number—without ever having the ague. A resident doctor said there

was just sickness enough "to keep him comfortably busy," but nothing unusual.

About one-half the population of Kankakee is said to be French Canadian; and I should judge, from what I see, that the estimate is not far from the truth. Father Chiniquy, who has done much to foster this colony, it will be remembered, first set out as an Apostle of Temperance. It is to be feared that, at Kankakee, his labours in that direction have not produced any very permament results. Drinking saloons are conspicuously plentiful: and a French Canadian informs me that his countrymen here drink far more than it is customary for them to drink in Lower Canada.

Father Chiniquy resides at St. Anne, or Beaver Creek, some twelve miles from this place. That there is much suffering among the French Canadians at St. Anne, I was informed by a Protestant minister; and the statement was only too conclusively corroborated afterwards. This is the third year that the crops have failed at that settlement. Such as can get away are returning to Canada, or seeking a new home in another part of the State; and one of them assured me that nothing but the want of means prevented them from returning "in thousands." This may possibly be an exaggeration: but from all I heard on this point I cannot doubt the desire of large numbers to return who have not the means of carrying out their wishes. Even in this city employment is very scarce. A French Canadian assured me that labourers are expected to work for 50 cents a-day; and there are many who cannot get employment at all. An old settler, an American, detailed some cases of individual distress among the French Canadians here. Two days before my visit, he said, a French Canadian went to him, and said he was willing to work for three York shillings (1s. 10½d.) a-day, but that he was unable to find employment. Next day he returned, and said he had not been able to obtain employment, even at the rate in question, and that his children were starving for want of bread. My informant gave him three York shillings and some food; though as a general rule, he said, it was useless for a Frenchman to tell an American that he has nothing to eat, and no means of procuring anything. A French Canadian, a working-man, told me he had to give one of his countrymen a dollar yesterday, to buy some corn, to keep him from starvation. I also visited Bourbonnais, a distance of two and a half miles from Kankakee. The village is placed in the shelter of the border of wood that lines the Kankakee river, and its population is exclusively French Canadian. The houses are frame, painted white, and have generally an appearance of neatness. The settlers here are better off than those at St. Anne. In passing through the village I called at a tavern, on the platform of which, in front of the bar-room, were six or seven French Canadians, in conversation. It happened, singularly enough, that they were relating to one another their ague experience; how they had shaken with chills and burnt with fever. On my questioning them about the health of the place, they said the ague was less

frequent than formerly; that there was no marsh, or anything else about the river, to produce it. One of them said he had taken the ague on the open prairie. This settlement he described as being, upon the whole, in a prosperous condition. It is therefore improbable that it will suffer the same diminution as that at St. Anne is being subjected to. Father Chiniquy is endeavouring to direct these outgoers to another part of the State, whither several have already gone; and it remains to be seen what will be the success of their new venture. The failure of the wheat crop is attributable to several causes; winter killing—a good deal was ploughed up in the spring—the excessive wet spring and dry summer, and the chinch bug. Before the day on which I write, when it rained a little, rain has fallen but once in two months. The chinch bug has the smell of a similarly-named creature which sometimes makes unwelcome intrusion into human habitations. It appears in such numbers as sometimes entirely to cover the corn-stalks. The extreme variableness of the climate is complained of.

I met here a young man who had lived among the French Canadians, on the Detroit river, three years; and he says that, as a rule, they are far better off than their countrymen here. Their rule here is to be satisfied with little, though there are some who display as much enterprise as any part of the population. I met some who said they preferred this country to Canada; and at least an equal number who declared their preference for Canada over this country, and their desire to return. No fruit can be grown in the neighboring prairies. It is necessary to go 200 miles south of this point before any considerable quantity of fruit can be raised.

At the Kankakee station I examined the field book of the Illinois Central Railway Company's lands. The prices which they demand for lands in this neighborhood, range from $8 to $22 an acre. At Tolono, an ex-engineer of the Company, assured me that for a cultivated farm, one mile from that place, he got a cash rent of $3 to $4 an acre. This is an enormous figure for lands that can be bought at say an average of $12 an acre; and it tells an instructive tale about the cost of fencing.

The high price of land is maintained all the way to the Kansas frontier. Large numbers of Northerners have recently settled upon the graduated lands in Missouri; and there is a disposition in the slaveholders to go further South. Some of the graduated lands in that State—lands of which the price has been reduced on account of the length of time they have been in the market without being sold—are purchaseable at $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents an acre; but they must be in undesirable situations, *for the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railway Company holds the* 600,000 *acres which it possesses at from* $5 *to* $15 *an acre.* The graduated lands have remained unsold, principally because Missouri is a slave state; and it is the certain prospect of her becoming free that now causes them to be taken up. The Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad company put it forward as one of the inducements to purchase their lands that Missouri is sure soon to become a free State. *These lands extend all the way to the Kansas frontier;* and the rates at which they are held is one of the proofs of how far it is necessary to

go West to get any accessible lands at any thing like a moderate price. Such a fact as this should give us a clear idea of the value of lands in Upper Canada. It is true these railroad lands are sold on credit; and it is open to the purchaser, who pays only 2½ per cent. interest, to choose the terms of credit.

SHEEP FARMING IN ILLINOIS—ROT, FOOT-ROT AND OTHER DISEASES.

Profitable sheep farming is a ticklish thing. It existed in the infancy of the State, when, the land being nearly all common, an unlimited amount of grazing was to be had for nothing. I was told of a farmer, north of Mendota, who made large sums by sheep farming. He recently sold out his flock of 2,000; and it is not thought that his successor will be equally successful, seeing that the advantages of unlimited free common of prairie is no longer obtainable in that neighbourhood. Sheep farming, my informant says—and he is himself a large farmer—depends very much for success upon the skill with which it is conducted. The rot, which was so fatal in the marshy parts of England before the introduction of draining, often makes terrible havoc among sheep in this State. The address of a farmer who lost 100 sheep from this cause, last winter, has been given me. The rot is a disease against which there is no effectual remedy but drainage; and the drainage of flat prairies, through which there are no streams for outfalls for scores of miles together, must be next to an impossibility. But other causes than wet tend to produce the rot in sheep; and of these the most prominent is exposure. Sheep farmers, who have been successful, have provided for their flocks shelter from the cutting winds which sweep unbroken over the prairies for hundreds of miles together. These consist of large sheds, on as elevated a situation as the farm affords—whenever there is any difference of level—covered with grass; a material which has to be renewed every two years. Besides rot and foot-rot, there are other diseases to which sheep on these prairies are subject. They thus require an amount of care which is likely to cause the raising of cattle to be generally preferred in Illinois to that of sheep.

PRAIRIE LAND NOT ALWAYS CROPPED THE YEAR THAT IT IS FIRST BROKEN UP.

We passed some prairie, ploughed for the first time this summer, and not under crop. It is, I find, *a mistake to suppose that prairie land is always cropped the first year it is broken.* It is impossible that it should be; for the persons on whom the farmer depends for the breaking up of his land—who keep cattle and ploughs for that purpose—cannot be in two places at once; and the quantity of land which they could break up between the opening of spring and the time for sowing is necessarily limited. Some are therefore obliged to wait till it is too late for sowing to have their land broken up; and thus it results that about half the prairie land brought under cultivation bears no crop the first year. Nor is the "sod" crop, as the crop is called which is put in the same year that the land is broken, generally equal to a crop put in the second year. When the land is cropped the same year that it is broken up the yield is gene-

rally light, and the chances of the next year's crop are considerably injured. When not cropped the first year, the sun kills the roots of grass much better and the sod rots much more effectually; thus preparing it to raise a better crop next year. It is doubtful whether any thing is gained by the "sod" crop; that is the crop grown the first year after the land is broken up.

ILLINOIS AS A WHEAT GROWING STATE.

At least two-thirds of all the wheat grown in the northern section of the State, is Spring wheat. Winter wheat is grown in Canada with success as far north-east as Belleville, and even Kingston; and it is a curious question how it comes to pass that the northern part of this State, so much farther south-west, is not better adapted for the production of winter wheat than the neighbourhood of Belleville, in Canada. The reason generally given, and I have no doubt it is the correct one, is *that the frequent thaws cause the grain to be exposed, and it suffers accordingly*, from the absence of shelter. A farmer, who lives fifteen miles east of the Mississippi, on the line of railroad on which I came to day, estimated the yield in that neighbourhood at 15 bushels an acre—some spring wheat descending as low as 10, and some fall rising as high as 25. A farmer, who lives fifteen miles west of Rock Island, told me, in the railroad cars to-day, that from 10 acres of Spring wheat he had obtained 110 bushels, and that all he had been offered for it was 50 cents a bushel. Another farmer, who lives in the neighbourhood of La Salle, and with whom I conversed a few days before, estimated the entire yield of wheat throughout the State of Illinois, at 10 bushels an acre. This low average he set down to the ravages of the chinch bug. I have since learned that this insect frequently covers the stalks of both wheat and corn—paying its respects to the wheat first, and afterwards going over to the corn for a dessert. Oats are rusted in some places, and it is thought that 25 bushels per acre will be a high average.

At Springfield I found a large number of farmers in the city, their waggons being ranged on every street that forms the boundary of the square in which the State-house is situated. They did not appear to have brought much into the city. Some few of them had about a half-cord of bad wood each—oak—for which they uniformly asked $1 50. Some of them had brought it seven miles. Hardly any of them—I could not find one—had brought in wheat. I conversed freely with numbers of them on the subject of the harvest, and they had all pretty nearly one story to tell: there is a light wheat crop. I met two farmers whose wheat had not been worth reaping; and one who, during the last three years, had lost from $1,000 to $1,500 in the attempt to grow wheat. In 1857, he put $100 worth of seed wheat into 80 acres, and reaped nothing. Last year his crop failed again; and this year it is so bad that, after reaping a few acres, he found it would not pay for the labour, and abandoned the crop in the field. Winter wheat is sown almost exclusively in this part of the State, but year after year it has suffered from winter killing. This year it has, according to the evidence of all the practical persons with whom I spoke on the subject, suffered from three causes: winter

killing, excessive wet in the spring, and the chinch bug. These are the principal causes; but there remain two more to be added,—the wheat-fly, about which I heard but little, and the drought which followed the excessive wet of the spring. In answer to my inquiries how it was, if winter-wheat is so precarious a crop, that it is not abandoned for spring-wheat, I was told that the wet springs prevent the grain being got into the ground in good season, and the hot weather that follows bakes the surface hard. This crop is, therefore, considered even more precarious than winter-wheat. The farmers are generally united in the opinion that wheat will not average over ten bushels an acre. The few who had tested the productiveness by threshing, were inclined to put the average still lower. One, who had threshed 400 bushels, said the average yield did not exceed eight bushels an acre. Regarding the prospects of the corn crop, great difference of opinion exists; but it would be very difficult to arrive at any accurate conclusion as to the probable yield, as much of it is not sufficiently far advanced to make it secure against early autumn frosts. Potatoes have been considerably damaged by the drought. They sell here at present at 60 cents a bushel.

PAPER CITIES—THE SQUATTER HAS NO RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES IF HE HAS NO MONEY.

The Americans, to do them justice, have an astonishing facility of making cities—especially upon paper. I observe, for instance, that there is a joint-stock city-making company in Minnesota, called the "Dacotah Land Company." No sooner does the Indian surrender a tract of land, than this company sends parties to explore for the sites of future cities, and to take such steps as they can for securing the locations they may pitch upon. This, however, is a ticklish business; for in the United States, even the honest squatter, who intends to purchase and improve the lot he has set himself down upon, is not assured of any sort of protection whatever, unless he has money. For instance, the Government is about to bring a large quantity of lands into the market, in Minnesota. All these lands, whether squatted on or not, must be offered for sale by public auction, *and as many of the squatters are notoriously without the means of purchasing, they will have to submit to the loss of their improvements.* If the lands on which they had squatted had not been brought into the market for some years later, as they doubtless expected would be the case, they might have been able to purchase. Nobody will give them anything for their improvements, for the simple reason that they have no rights, which the law recognizes, to transfer; and there will be sure to be plenty of purchasers of their lots, because they have been improved. Squatting, it must be borne in mind, is something very different from taking steps to secure a pre-emption claim. The former relates to lands not yet in the market, which will be offered at auction, and sold to the highest bidder, without the slightest regard to what the squatter may have done. A pre-emption claim can only be established in respect to lands already in the market. The public sales of lands to take place in Minnesota this fall, will play tremendous havoc with the squatters.

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